IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Beginning on Page 2, please amend the application as follows:

[4]   ISI phenomena may be modeled mathematically. In the case where the data signal D is populated by a number of data symbols d_n, captured signals x_n at the destination 120 may be represented as:

$$x_n = a_0 \cdot d_n + f\left(d_{n-K_2}, \cdots, d_{n-1}, d_{n+1}, \cdots, d_{n+K_1}\right) + \omega_n, \tag{1}$$

where a_0 represents a gain factor associated with the channel 130, $f\left(d_{n-K_2}, \cdots d_{n+K_1}\right)$ is a functional representation that relates the ISI to the symbols, $d_{n-K_2}, \cdots d_{n+K_1}$, causing ISI corruption and ω_n represents corruption from other sources. In linear systems, Equation 1 may reduce to:

$$x_n = d_n + \sum_{\substack{i=-K_1 \\ i \neq 0}}^{K_2} a_i \cdot d_{n-i} + \omega_n, \tag{2}$$

where $a_{-K_1}, \cdots a_{K_2}$ represent ~~the sample values of the~~ impulse response of the channel. In accordance to common practice, the values a_i have been normalized by the value of a_0 in Equation 2.

[27]   Alternately, the reliability factor R may be calculated from values, $\hat{d}_n$, of the decoded symbols at the output from the symbol decoder 210. In this embodiment, the evaluation of Equations 7 to 9 may be carried out as follows:

$$R(x_n) = \sum_{\substack{i=-K_1 \\ i \neq 0}}^{K_2} \left|\hat{d}_{n-i}\right| \cdot c_i, \tag{10}$$

$$\underline{R(x_n) = \sum_{\substack{i=-K_1 \\ i \neq 0}}^{K_2} \left|\hat{d}_{n-i}\right| \cdot c_i} \,\underline{\,} \, R(x_n) = \sum_{i=1_1}^{K} \left|\hat{d}_{n-i}\right| \cdot c_i \, \underline{\,} \tag{11}$$

and

$$R(x_n) = \sum_{\substack{i=-K_1 \\ i \neq 0}}^{K_2} \sqrt{\hat{d}_{1_{n-i}}^2 + \hat{d}_{2_{n-i}}^2} \cdot c_i \tag{12}$$

respectively. In Equation 12, the parameters $\hat{d}_{1_{n-i}}$ and $\hat{d}_{2_{n-i}}$ respectively represent values of

$\hat{d}_{n-i}$ in first and second dimensions.